

**Board of Selectmen
Open Meeting of February 2, 2022
Meeting Held Via Zoom due to COVID-19**

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, Adam Petronio, David Andrade, Michael Healy
Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime
Asst. Town Administrator/ Director of Human Resources: Carol-Ann Days

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at **6:01 p.m.**

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

Board and Committee Openings

M. Healy read the Board and Committee vacancies into the record.

Community Speaks

Thomas Liberatore, 102 Pershing Avenue, was on the Zoom call. He advised the Board he received letters from both the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals regarding work being done on abutting property. He was told when he bought the property that nothing could be built on that land due to it being conservation land.

D. Andrade answered the property may contain wetlands but it is not conservation land held in a Trust. Mr. Andrade advised Mr. Libertore the Conservation Commission will address wetland concerns at their meeting and the Zoning Board of Appeals will address the zoning and use of property concerns.

A. Petronio advised Mr. Liberatore the Conservation Commission is meeting on Monday night and they will address issues concerning the wetlands.

Joanne Leeuwenburgh, 16 Edison Avenue was on the Zoom call and also expressed her concerns regarding the construction behind her property. She asked when the ZBA meeting was scheduled for.

Ms. Days answered the meeting is scheduled to be on February 14th.

Doreen Taylor, 175 Bradley Street, wrote her question to the Board through google docs. She asked for an explanation of the BAN renewal for Aitken School in the amount for \$200,000 and what it represented.

Chair Sullivan read a statement provided by the Town Treasurer, Christine DeFontes. The Aitken School Expansion Project was authorized for \$13,250,000. When the project was bonded in September 2021, the project expenses were underbudget by over \$1,000,000 with some outstanding invoices remaining so it was bonded for \$12,250,000 and did a short term note for \$200,000 to allow for any addition expenses. The note is now due, expenses are in, and the school department will need these funds. This BAN is to roll the note into FY23, raise this on the recap in December 2022, and pay in full FY23 along with the first payment on the bond.

Richard Lantagne, 98 Pershing Avenue, was on the Zoom call to express his concerns regarding the project on Pershing Avenue. He explained he witnessed the area not being maintained, equipment being left on the street, and trees being removed without permission.

Mr. Cadime said the Conservation Agent, Jennifer Miller, will address any trees being cleared in the wetlands.

A. Consider the vote to award and execute the renewal of the Bond Anticipation Note for the Aitken School Project in the amount of \$200,000

A. Petronio made a motion to vote to award the \$200,000 Town of Seekonk, Massachusetts Bond Anticipation Notes dated February 10, 2022 and maturing August 1, 2022 to Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod at a net interest cost of 0.65% it was the lowest out of three bids presented; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

B. Discussion with the Superintendent of Public Works regarding the National Grid Tree Mitigation

Dave Cabral, Superintendent of Public Works was on the Zoom call along with Jeff Meola and Luke Fisk of National Grid to discuss their Public Shade Tree Removal Permit. Many of the trees on National Grid's list are also listed on the Town's list. If National Grid removes the trees, it will allow the town to save approximately \$100,000 over a period of time. Mr. Cabral conducted the site visits with Conservation Agent, Jennifer Miller.

Jeff Meola from National Grid summarized the project to help reduce power outages from Seekonk to Rehoboth. They proposed the removal of sixty-nine dead or decaying trees on Pine Street, Newman Avenue, and Woodland Avenue. Mr. Meola met with all the homeowners, except one, and they signed permission for the trees to be removed. The project will start this Spring.

C. Zorra asked if National Grid will grind the stumps.

J. Meola answered they do not grind stumps but will cut them as close to the ground as possible.

C. Zorra asked Mr. Cabral if DPW would grind stumps if they posed a danger.

D. Cabral replied the trees are not close to the roadways but they will look if there are concerns.

J. Sullivan asked Mr. Meola if National Grid has general standards/timeline for clean-up. He also asked who residents would call if they had concerns.

J. Meola said cleanup should take no more than a couple of weeks. Generally, they use a couple of bucket trucks along with a log pickup truck. He provided the residents with his cell phone number. If wood is left for an unreasonable time, it usually is caused by equipment issue. Mr. Meola did advise the Board several residents asked for the wood to be left.

D. Cabral asked National Grid to leave any wood 6-7 feet away from the right-of-way.

C. Consider the acceptance of the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security E-citation grant program for a maximum amount of \$11,000

Chief Isabella was on the Zoom call and summarized the grant. It will allow them to install an e-printer in each cruiser. It is a good way to issue citations.

A. Petronio made a motion to accept the Executive office of Public Safety & Security E-citation grant program for a maximum amount of \$11,000; D. Andrade seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

D. Consider the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$694.41 from Rocky's ACE Hardware to the Seekonk Animal Shelter

D. Andrade made a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$694.41 from Rocky's ACE Hardware to the Seekonk Animal Shelter; A. Petronio seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

E. Consider accepting the minutes of January 5, 2022 and January 19, 2022

A. Petronio made a motion to accept the minutes of January 5, 2022 and January 19, 2022; it was seconded by D. Andrade, and it was unanimously approved.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0 all in favor

Community Speaks: N/A

OTHER BUSINESS – N/A

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT – The South End Fire Station Committee is meeting tonight with the OPM to discuss the design services RFQ. Once the committee approves, a BID can go out for architectural services.

Mr. Cadime thanked the Public Safety, Communications and Department of Public Works for their efforts during the snow storm. He advised the Board they are prepared for the upcoming storm.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

- Bristol County Advisory Board (Michael Healy) -N/A
- Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra) – N/A
- 540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report (Chris Zorra)– their next meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2022.

The Board is looking forward to an in-person meeting soon to be able to recognize the retirement of two Special Police Officers after 35 years.

The Board also wanted to thank DPW, the plow contractors, and the Public Safety Departments for all their efforts during the snow storm.

Adjournment to Enter into Executive Session

A. Petronio made a motion to adjourn open session meeting to enter into executive session at 6:53 p.m.; it was seconded by C. Zorra, and unanimously approved.

ROLL CALL VOTE: 5-0 all in favor

Respectfully submitted,
Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:
Kristen L'Heureux

Items Distributed at the February 2, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Public Shade Tree Removal Permit and list of Town owned trees
- Memo and email from Chief Isabella regarding MACCS e-citation grant
- Memo from Andrea Russo, Animal Control Officer and letter from for Rocky's ACE Hardware regarding their \$694.41 donation